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NSRE 2000

Version 14

July, 2002

Alternate Charter Forest Questions

American's Knowledge Of and Attitudes Toward The United States Forest Service

I. Awareness of and personal relationship to federal lands

Interviewer read: Between 1870 and 1950, the United States Congress established a federal land system, including national forests and national parks. Congress also established federal agencies to manage these new federal lands in the national interest. Tell me

1. Were you aware of the federal lands we have in this country ? (Y/N/DK)
2. Have you ever visited any federal lands, such as a national forest or a national park? (Y/N/DK)

Ask Q3 only if the answer is "yes" to Q2.

3. In the past year, on about how many different days did you visit or use any of the federal lands? ____ days
4. Do you or does anyone in your household make a living part-time or full-time from work directly associated with federal lands, such as tourism, logging, mining, grazing, or water supply? (Y/N/DK)

II. Values in management of federal lands

5. Now, I will read you 6 statements describing different priorities for managing federal lands. Please rate each statement using a scale from one to five, with one meaning not important at all and five meaning extremely important.

(The items are to be randomized for each respondent.)

- a. Protecting streams and other sources of clean water
- b. Maintaining national forests for future generations to use and enjoy
- c. Providing habitat and protection for wildlife and fish
- d. Using and managing forests in ways that leave them natural in appearance
- e. Providing access to raw materials and products for local industries and communities
- f. Providing roads, accommodations and services to help local tourism businesses

III. Ownership and Control

Interviewer read: Up to this point in our history, it has been left to the federal agencies that Congress established to manage federal lands on behalf of the American public.

6. Prior to this interview, did you know there are federal agencies that Congress established to manage federal lands, such as national forests and national parks? (Y,N,DK)

7. How do you feel about the amount of federal land?

There's too much (Go to Q8)

The amount is about right (skip Q8)

There's too little (skip Q8)

8. What should we do about the amount of federal land?

(Alternatively reverse order of scale bottom to top and top to bottom)

- Put all of it in private ownership and have no federal land
- Put part of it in private ownership and keep some federal land
- Put part of it in state or local government ownership and keep some federal land
- DK/DC

9. On a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 meaning don't trust at all and 5 meaning completely trust, please indicate how much you would trust each of the following organizations to manage federal lands.

(Randomize)

- Federal agencies
- State agencies
- County or city governments
- Independent boards made up of local interests
- Independent boards with both business and environmental members
- A private corporation
- DK/DC

IV. Knowledge and attitudes regarding the Forest Service and National Forests

10. Please tell me which one of the following statements best describes your understanding of the United States Forest Service.

(Order should be randomized)

1. The Forest Service manages national forests primarily to preserve wildlands and wildlife
2. The Forest Service manages national forests primarily to provide timber, livestock grazing and other commercial products
3. The Forest Service manages national forests for multiple uses including timber production, wilderness preservation, livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, recreation, and clean water

11. On a scale of one to five, with one meaning strongly disagree and five meaning strongly agree, please indicate how much you agree with each of the following statements.

(Please randomize order of the entire list)

1. Funding the Forest Service to manage national forests is a valuable use of my tax dollars
2. The Forest Service should do more to protect water, natural areas and wildlife
3. The Forest Service should provide more timber, mining, tourism development and livestock grazing
4. Environmental interests have too much say over how national forests are managed
5. Commercial interests have too much say over how national forests are managed
6. Local interests have too much say over how national forests are managed
7. Politicians have too much say over how national forests are managed
8. The Forest Service does a poor job of managing the national forests
9. The Forest Service can be trusted to manage national forests
10. The Forest Service should finance itself through fees charged to commercial and recreation users of the national forests
11. Forest Service enforcement of environmental laws is too strict
12. The Forest Service does not conduct enough environmental evaluations before making decisions
13. The Forest Service is responsive to public comment and opinions